Approximately **10% to 20% of widows and widowers over the age of 70 eventually get remarried**, though a dramatic gender gap exists within this statistic.

The Gender Gap in Later-Life Remarriage

When analyzing older adults who have lost a spouse, men are significantly more likely to remarry than women:

- **Widowers (Men):** About **17.6% to 20%** remarry. Within two years of losing a spouse, up to 61% of older men are either remarried or involved in a serious new romance.
- **Widows (Women):** Only about **2% to 3.6%** remarry. A massive 94% of older widows choose to remain single for the remainder of their lives. Hope For Widows Foundation +3

Why the Disparity Exists

Several demographic and social reasons explain why remarriage rates among 70-year-olds skew so heavily toward men:

- **The Marriage Market Supply:** Women tend to outlive men. By age 75 and older, 54% of women are widowed compared to just 20% of men. This creates a severe shortage of available single men in the 70+ age bracket. Census.gov +3
- **Dating Demographics:** Older single men frequently seek out or marry younger women, further shrinking the pool of potential partners for older widows. The Columbian +1
- **Desire for Independence:** Sociological studies indicate that many older widows deliberately choose not to remarry. After spending decades caregiving, many women report enjoying their newfound freedom, living alone, and relying on close-knit friendships rather than a new spouse. Facebook · Ryan Burge +3
- **Cohabitation Over Marriage:** Many seniors over 70 prefer cohabitation or "living apart together" over legal remarriage. This allows them to enjoy companionship without complicating their estate planning, adult children's inheritances, or risking their late spouse's pension and Social Security benefits. Facebook · Ryan Burge +4